



PFLAG WAVE

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays/Dallas

January, 2005

Our Mission

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends, through *support*, to cope with an adverse society; *education*, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and *advocacy*, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.



PFLAG provides the opportunity for confidential dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.



WEB SITES

NATIONAL – www.pflag.org



DALLAS – www.pflagdallas.org



PFLAG/Dallas

(Newsletter and all correspondence)
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Newsletter

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Newsletter Deadline:

January 13, 2005

by mail, fax or e-mail

Next Meeting

January 13, 2005

Second Thursday, 7-9:30 p.m.

Midway Hills Christian Church

11001 Midway Road, Dallas

PFLAG receives \$23,943 from Black Tie

The total disbursement was more than \$1,150,000! HRC received about \$562,000.

All that, surf and turf, and a chocolate dessert, too! The Black Tie Dinner is *such* fun.

And now the fun is in the planning. What will we do with this windfall?

Conventional wisdom indicates we will get billboards up in record time, raising GLBT awareness on Dallas streets. The board has discussed it, we all agree, and that's probably where the bulk of that lovely check will go.

But there may be other useful endeavors we could pursue, and that's where more fun – and maybe some shouting – will be.

If you have any suggestions about something we should get into, please let us know. We might not be able to afford it right now, but it'll go on a list which we will consult in future.

While we are sincerely grateful to Black Tie, we are equally grateful to the friends of PFLAG who marked their ballots in our favor. To us, that means we must be doing something right!

Hey, Puddin's –

Happy New Year! As I look back on the last year, my thoughts are of the biggest story...the election. I know a lot of people are upset with the focus having been centered on gay marriage. There were some silly arguments that, if lesbians and gays were allowed to marry, the Bible would be taken out of the churches, and all hell would break loose. Puh-lease.

It's hysteria. That's how people push their agenda: they scare others into believing hysterical rhetoric. It was disheartening to endure the countless insults to LGBT people and their families. LGBTs seemed quiet, almost silent, compared to the loud, obnoxious tirades of religious fanatics who interpret the Bible according to their own irrational agenda.

I'm not sure that LGBTs made huge strides in the last year, but I am sure that people are waking up. The silence can no longer continue. People who have been closeted and quiet are speaking up. The constant barrage of nonsense has set off a kind of revolution. People who've been afraid now take stands against intolerance. Laughing at gay jokes is no longer funny.

The fact is, LGBT people are discriminated against and put down. Even the media has turned gay-bashing into a kind of sensational tabloid drama. A national TV show, through the magic of editing, turned Matthew Shepard's murder into a harmless misunderstanding between friends. Pathetic.

If anything good can come from all of the

negative hoopla concerning LGBT equal rights, it's that people will not stand for injustice for long. Sooner or later they wake up and take a stand. Lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgendered people, and their families and friends can speak out. You are heard, and people do care. When we are silent, we allow abuse to continue.

Standing up for oneself can be uncomfortable, because it may be new behavior. We don't want to offend anyone, so we become doormats. But sometimes in the midst of the confusion a revolution occurs...a revolution from within. It happens when we realize that the only person who can change our lives is ourselves. We educate ourselves and we find a positive support system. The journey can be difficult, but would you rather climb up the mountain, or fall into the valley?

We at PFLAG are climbing up the mountain, and we will throw a rope down to anyone who needs help. You are not alone. We are here to educate and support struggling parents. We believe in you; we're here for you. Shout from the highest mountain, because you have the right to meaningful relationships with your LGBT children. The end of last year was not very pretty, but the upcoming year promises a wonderful view from the summit.



On behalf of the board of PFLAG/Dallas, I thank the Black Tie Dinner committee for choosing our chapter as a beneficiary. We
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PFLAG/Dallas appreciates your continued support.